

**Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)**  
**August 31, 2012, 10:00 AM**  
**Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Training Center**  
**3140 N Street, Lincoln, NE**

**Opening Comments**

1. Roll Call, Open Meetings Law Information.

First	Last	Organization	Attendance	Vote to approve Minutes
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County Region	X	X
Patrick	Foust	Northeast Region	X	Abstain
Pat	Gerdes	Southwest Region	X	X
Jim	Gerweck	Southeast Region	X	X
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central Region	X	X
Pete	Peterson	North Central Region	X	X
Ray	Richards	Panhandle Region	X	Abstain
Dan	Lynch	South Central Region		
Thomas	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	X	X
Dave	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District		

2. Approval of July 29, 2012 Minutes

Mark Conrey made a motion to approve the July 29, 2012 meeting minutes. Tim Hofbauer seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus with Patrick Foust and Ray Richards abstaining (see above).

**Discussion Items**

1. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Update

NEMA's GIS team created a map demonstrating the proposed NRIN rings to indicate where existing towers are located and predict areas of disconnect. In the Southwest region, Pat Gerdes is looking at tower options as leasing towers is not a sustainable plan with grant funding. Mark Higgins, CSI, sent Sue Krogman, NEMA, a list of public towers that may be available for use. Higgins pointed out that building rings to build redundancy will be an important issue in the future. NPPD and CSI will need to work together on future tower issues. CSI asked for advice on how to move throughout the state as the Southwest region is nearing completion. NCOR recommends that CSI proceed throughout the state based on where equipment has been delivered and where EHPs (Environmental and Historical Preservation Reviews) are complete and approved. EHPs take from 2-6 weeks for completion. Bob Wilhelm recommended that each region complete all the EHPs that they know or suspect may need to be done for the NRIN project, so that CSI can go ahead and order the equipment.

Sue Krogman will send IP addresses to OCIO.

The North Central Region will not need a VPN connection on a separate circuit per Mark Higgins' recommendation. NCOR members asked if it is possible to use the IP addresses from the Paraclete boxes.

A regular conference call is held every Thursday at 3:00 PM with OCIO, CSI, NEMA, and the regional representatives. NPPD will be included in these meetings. The calls are recorded, but it would be useful to create notes or action items from the meeting to share. A project management plan for each of the

communications projects will be considered. Sue Krogman will send a list of to-do's or action items from NCOR today and from the conference calls to the participants. These conference calls are most helpful when everyone, especially regional representatives, participates and asks questions.

The NRIN Group met to review governance and sustainability issues after the last NCOR meeting. To gain NRIN buy-in by decision makers, we need to be able to show what it can do and what is required of the county boards to maintain. NCOR members recommended that a promotional piece be prepared that can be shared with the county boards to help describe this project. Tim Hofbauer is working with Janell Walther to set up the next NRIN meeting to review governance, sustainability, monitoring, and management. Jayne Scofield provided the sample Service-Level Agreement to the group for review. Sue Krogman will send the document that Rod Hutt made for promotion of NRIN. It will be important to promote the capabilities of the communications project to local governments.

## 2. Common Usage Channel / Mutual Aid Channels

The Southeast Region is waiting on vendors, but is generally ready to move forward with the Common Usage channel. Due to equipment capabilities, frequencies and dual antennas, the Southeast Region requires an 800 MHz repeated channel. The East Central Region needs to find solutions for Boone and Nance Counties. The North Central Region is waiting for microwave connectivity in several locations as well as console upgrades. There is hope that the State Radio System in Arnold and Whitman can help connectivity between Mullen and Whitman.

## 3. Paraclete

No decisions have been made regarding Paraclete and consolettes pending radios from Kenwood. Testing will be done to ensure that the consolettes can work with Raven and the Kenwood Radios.

## 4. SECC update – Janell Walther, PPC

The State Emergency Communication Committee met on August 15. The State Emergency Alert System Plan was submitted to the FCC, and approval is expected. The plan is available for review at the NE-EAS.org website. The SECC will incorporate the Local EAS plans in to the state plan over time. NEMA is in the process of developing IPAWS plans and procedures. The first successful CMAS message was sent in Colfax and Dodge County on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to a Verizon Android phone. The next SECC meeting will be Nov. 1, 2012 at 1:00 PM at NEMA.

## 5. Public Meeting Notices

Currently OCIO pays the bill for publication of NCOR meetings in the Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper. It was suggested that there may be less costly ways to post public meeting notices that NCOR will consider at the next meeting.

## 6. Interoperable Communications in Recent Emergencies – Mark Conrey

Recently, there was an article in the Omaha World Herald about interoperable communications usage with the recent fire disasters in the state. Over the years, NCOR invested time working on developing interoperable communication technologies for the state. NCOR also hosted a training session in Kearney about programming common usage channels in radios. The concerns highlighted in the news article may have been related to incident command issues rather than simply a communication capability issue because volunteers and first responders were not assigned to a channel when arriving

on scene. Review of the After-Action Report will allow us to look more closely at any communication issues. Reprogramming radios can be a cost issue for many, particularly organizations like volunteer fire departments. Communication may also be an issue for folks who self-deploy. It was suggested that a possible solution to incident related communication problems may be to designate a Communications Unit Leader (COML). Event channels may be used for any emergency event, not just Law Enforcement. State guidance should reinforce that radios purchased with grant funding have the Common Channels programmed into them.

7. Regional Emergency Communication Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) – Mark Conrey

On March 11, the RECCWG will do a state annex to the communication plan to identify gaps. It will be important to ensure that our TICPs are up to date, including recognition of the State Radio System, as that will be used for this annex review. Bob Eastwood, NEMA will serve as the point of contact.

The Office of Emergency Communication guidance document is available at <http://publicsafetytools.info>. The Frequency Mapping and Narrowbanding tools are especially useful.

Nebraska has made a lot of progress in communications but it was suggested that it is important that we have representation at the RECCWG to share this information, and be aware of upcoming issues. For example, as Iowa switches to their Next Generation 911, Nebraska and Iowa 911 will not be able to transfer calls across state lines, which is particularly important for location/GIS information and makes Next Generation 911 a pressing issue. As part of the FEMA's Region 7, we will need to have representation as part of the membership. At the next meeting, NCOR will consider recommendations for this issue.

## Information & Reports

1. NEMA — No additional report.
2. PPC – Denise Bulling  
October 16-17 will be the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR) workshop. Day 1 will look at three specific scenarios related to THIRA and set targets. Day 2 will look at the SPR. Communication is one of the capabilities, so the group will set targets based on most likely events, such as pandemic, cyber security, and/or a dam break. There is no update on the executive order from the Lieutenant Governor.
3. OCIO – No additional report.

## Comments

1. Member Comments  
We are identifying Kansas common use channels on the repeaters. Dispatchers have to adjust the volume. If bridges are not used, we will need to reduce transmission. Jim Lundsted will share this with the Dept. of Transportation meeting.
2. Others

Jim Lundsted, OEC, reported that All-Hazards Technical Class will be held on Sept. 10 in Lincoln, NE. Missouri will provide a course in Communications Leader Unit Awareness for public safety agencies, which can provide useful strategies and methodologies for COML training. The Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) need to submit requests for interoperability technical assistance, and Nebraska has not made a request. There are requests for training in Council Bluffs, so cross-state training could be an option. A board will be created to look at broadband uses across state lines within the region. Nebraska will need to appoint a representative to serve on this Public Safety Network Board. This could be, for example, a representative from OCIO. The Governor will need to designate this person.

**Next Meeting:** TBD (The date of October 5 set at the meeting was later detracted due to a potential lack of quorum)

<b>Acronyms Used</b>	
<b>NCOR</b>	Nebraska Council of Regions
<b>NECP</b>	National Emergency Communications Plan
<b>NEMA</b>	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
<b>NPPD</b>	Nebraska Public Power District
<b>N-WIN</b>	Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network
<b>OCIO</b>	Office of the Chief Information Officer
<b>OEC</b>	Office of Emergency Communications
<b>PPC</b>	Public Policy Center
<b>SCIP</b>	Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan
<b>TICP</b>	Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan